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February 19, 1993

Ms. Donna Searcy
The Secretary of the FCC
The Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Cable Industry Regulation

Dear Ms. Searcy,

Please accept this letter as my input in regard to the pending regulation of the cable industry.

First I would like to say that I support a healthy cable industry which means that I am in favor of not over burdening the industry with a lot of costs and/or Federal Regulation. For instance, I have not been a supporter of local cable operators being required to provide television studios for communities. Primarily because this adds a great deal to the cost of cable operations which is passed on to me as a consumer. The local programs are terrible and I have never watched them.

The following are a list of the problems and my suggestions in regard to the current cable situation at hand;

1) The cable companies and the services they provide should be treated the same as telephone service. Specifically, the cable company should provide service to the dwelling (house, apartment, condominium, etc.) but the internal wiring of a building or dwelling should be at the desecration of the home owner, building owner or occupant. As home owners are allowed to have as many telephones hooked up to phone service for one basic price. Cable television subscribers should be allowed the same service. If a cable service purchaser gets the basic service for \$21.00 per month, that person should be allowed to hook up all the televisions they want and still only pay \$21.00. Right now you pay extra for each television that you want to receive cable and you pay for a remote control if you receive a premium channel that requires a decoder box.

If a cable subscriber gets HBO or any premium channel and pays an additional \$10.00 (estimate) over the basic rate all of the televisions in their household should be allowed to receive the premium channel without additional charge.

The point is that once you pay for the service at what ever level of service a cable subscriber should be able to attach as many television sets to the service as they would like.

Ms. Donna Searcy, Secretary
February 19, 1993

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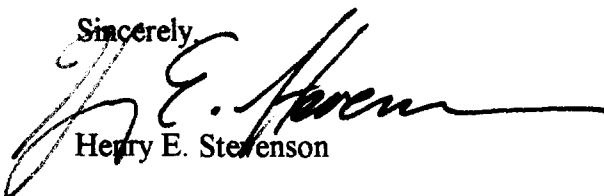
2) The regulation that only local network (ABC, NBC, CBS) stations get placed on the cable instead of non-local network stations is not in the best interest of the consumer. There is a good reason why this should not be allowed. The local station often preempts network programming with a local movie or television show. These local inserts and preempting do not provide the optimum variety that the viewer deserves. The cable subscriber is denied the ability to watch the network movie or program because of the local preemption. If multiple network television stations were available then the viewer would be allowed to see the network program that is being preempted. This is especially important when watching football games.

3) I have heard that the local television network affiliates and other local stations would like to be compensated for being carried on cable. While I can understand their desire to make an extra buck they obviously want their cake and eat it too! Many local television stations can not be clearly received the viewer. Even the large VHF network affiliates are hard to receive clearly. If a consumer wants a clear picture, cable is the only way to go. And I contend that it is in the local television stations' interest to be received as clearly as possible. The cable industry provides the local television industry a major service by providing cable and therefore providing a clearer picture. Ultimately the television stations earn their billions through advertising. The suggestion that the cable industry pay to run them for a fee is absurd and is clearly not in the best interest of the viewer. If allowed to go through the networks and their affiliates would receive a windfall at the expense of the consumer.

4) Finally, because there is no competition in the cable industry, at least in the foreseeable future they have a monopoly on the cable rates. I pay \$21.07 a month for some 41 channels. However, a third are not watchable because of content such as the Home Shopping or Cable adds. The cable company should not get credit for providing channels that are 100% revenue makers for themselves. A reasonable rate for commercial television cable would be \$10.00 per month. My choice to quit cable is there but I would get terrible reception if I stopped.

Over the years that cable television has been with us I've and you no doubt have seen the rates for cable television go up. While they do offer more variety and a lot more channels, many of those channels do not provide a real service such as Home Shopping Network. The bottom line is that with the monopoly that cable companies have, they can and do jack the prices up and the consumer has little option but to pay or shut the service off. I believe that my suggestions of lowering the burden of local requirements, telling the networks to take a hike with the notion of cable companies paying them to be run on cable, most importantly allowing cable subscribers to hook up as many televisions to what ever cable service they purchase will help reduce costs to the local cable service and they will be able to cut the cost they charge people like myself in half.

Sincerely,



Henry E. Stevenson